



December 2, 2010

The Honorable Pat Quinn  
Office of the Governor of the State of Illinois  
State Capitol  
207 Springfield  
Springfield, IL 62706

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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
CITIZENS ASSISTANCE

Dear Governor Quinn:

The American Society of Association Executives ("ASAE") is a section 501(c)(6) individual membership organization of more than 22,000 association executives and industry partners representing nearly 12,000 tax-exempt organizations. Its members manage leading trade associations, individual membership societies, and voluntary organizations across the United States and in 50 countries around the globe.

As you prepare for the 2014 deadline for implementing the health care exchanges outlined in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, I would like to offer the association community as a partner in the creation of these exchanges. The exchanges have received bipartisan support during the health care debate and separate legislation for their creation received the support of groups like the National Association of Realtors. Their creation will allow millions of small employers and individuals the chance to find cost-efficient health care offerings that will allow them to continue offering affordable coverage to employees.

State and local associations have an infrastructure in place to assist all entities at the state level in receiving and disseminating information to individuals and employers about health insurance and health care options. Because they already possess the infrastructure to assist in the creation of Exchanges, associations can make creating Exchanges more affordable. Associations are also able to disseminate information on health insurance options to their members and other interested parties. This is one of the reasons that associations are specifically mentioned in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act as possible navigators in the Exchanges. Many members of associations, including businesses and individuals, already look to their membership organization for information on health insurance. Participating in the Exchanges would be a natural extension of these activities.

Associations offer a wide range of services and benefits to their diverse memberships across the United States. In essence, associations are already doing what state Exchanges are seeking to do: unite people from different socio-economic and cultural backgrounds into a pool where they can find a variety of affordable and useful health care benefits. We urge your state to utilize and build on this existing capability in order to make sure that the Exchanges are effective and successful.

You can see the diverse number of associations in your state, as well as some statistics on the association community, through our website [www.thepowerofa.org](http://www.thepowerofa.org). As you begin creating the Exchanges, we encourage you to let these associations help you provide important insurance information and benefits to the citizens of your state.

Sincerely,

John H. Graham IV, CAE  
President & CEO